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correction of such abuses," a remedy for which he sought during many years and finally believed he had found in the limited application of the doctrine of the recall of judicial decisions, advocated in his Columbus speech of 1912. Reference might here be made to the so-called Vatican incident. Mr. Washburn says: "Roosevelt has been advised and urged not to go to Rome and thus to avoid trouble. He said that he would not invite trouble but would not go a hand's breadth out of his way to avoid trouble when he knew that he was in the right." It is true that much was made of the unfortunate incident that was not warranted by the facts. It may be questioned, however, whether in this particular instance he was justified in knowing "that he was in the right." Mr. Roosevelt might well have shown the Pope the courtesy and respect which he himself so energetically demanded from others.

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**Life of Rev. Charles Nerinckx.** By W. J. Howlett. Mission Press, S.V.D. Techney, Ill. 1915. Pp. 434.

This new biography of Father Nerinckx has three ends in view. By means of hitherto unused documents it seeks to present his life more completely and more accurately. It would clear his character from the frequent charges made against him, and to some degree the author's underlying thesis is that Nerinckx was a saint. These purposes are pursued through thirty-three chapters of interesting and well-connected narrative.

The measure of success attained by the writer in these endeavors is open to criticism. Father Howlett's work marks an advance, possibly, on those of Maes, Spalding, and others who have touched the subject but the book does not come with the finality of a last word. Unless we err, the archives of Baltimore might be made to yield additional material which should not be neglected. Again, the vindication of Nerinckx in the matter of rigorism, of his relations with some of his co-workers, and of the other disputed points, is not such as to silence controversy. To call attention to these facts is not to disparage the work. The author's championship of the saintly missionary awakens a

universal response of hearty sympathy, though it may leave the question as open as ever.

Inexcusable, however, is the absence of bibliography and references to sources. One looks in vain to learn where the documents cited are to be found, and printed sources are quoted with never a mention of a page. Despite these shortcomings, however, the book takes its place as one of value in the growing field of American Church history.

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**The Memorial of Fray Alonso de Benavides, 1630.** Translated by Mrs. Edward E. Ayer, Annotated by Frederick Webb Hodge and Charles Fletcher Lummis. Pp. xiii+309. Chicago, Privately Printed, 1916.

In his introduction to this work, Charles F. Lummis says: "This Memorial is one of the scarcest of all *Americana*. A copy of the thin, parchmented volume, printed in 1630, and of only 104 pages, is worth at least its weight in gold. To the student of the Southwest it is as precious as to the collector—an indispensable source. Benavides was an eyewitness and a part of the history-making era he records. He was an honest chronicler, though an enthusiastic one—a religious 'promoter,' as it were. The very zeal which made him risk his life and make naught of his hardships as a frontier missionary for a number of years, colors his report—which was purely to induce the King to send more missionaries to New Mexico and build more churches there for the conversion of the Gentiles. Naturally he was optimistic, so far as populations go; sixty per cent is none too large a rebate for his figures, which were of necessity mere guesses. There was no census; and these Indian populations almost invariably impress one as more numerous than they are. Less pardonable writers than Benavides have gone much farther astray in these estimates, in our own day. Barring this, and his natural 'prospector' faith in 'mines' which never panned out, Fray Alonso is a most trustworthy witness; and by grace of his position, a most important one."

Referring to the present edition, here under discussion, Mr. Charles F. Lummis gives the following interesting information: